

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

After the title, on page 1, line 9, please insert the following:_____

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A1
This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/252,967, filed June 6, 1994, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-42.

Please add new claims 43-52 as follows:

C1
43. (New) A composition comprising substantially non-aggregated particulates in suspension and an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation of the particulates upon freezing and thawing.

A2
44. (New) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the composition is frozen.

45. (New) The composition according to claim 43, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold, polystyrene latex and aluminum hydroxide.

46. (New) The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 10% (w/v) trehalose.

47. (New) The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 30% (w/v) trehalose.

Sub B1
48. (New) A method of reducing aggregation during dehydration and rehydration of particulates in suspension comprising the steps of:

adding to a particulate suspension an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation upon rehydration; and
dehydrating the suspension.

A2
49. (New) A method of reducing aggregation of particulates in suspension during freezing, comprising the steps of

adding to the suspension an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation during freezing; and
freezing the suspension.

Sub B2
50. (New) The method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold, polystyrene latex and aluminum hydroxide.

51. (New) The method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 10% (w/v).

Sub B3
52. (New) The method according to claim 48 or claim 49, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 30% (w/v).

Add B4